Specimen examined : *Holotype*—India—Himachal Pradesh, Pangi village near P.W.D. rest house, Kinnaur district. *K. P. Janardhanan*, 47716 A (CAL); *Isotypes* 47716 B & C (BSD).

Note : Several attempts to recollect this plant from the type locality proved in vain.

The species is named after Dr. Upendra Chandra Bhattacharyya, who has extensively botanised in this region.

	Trigonella corniculata L.	*Trigonella upendrae sp. nov.*
1.	Diffuse, suberect, much brnahced.	Erect, sparingly branched.
2.	Stipule deeply toothed, not auricled.	Stipule deeply incised, auricled at base.
3.	Petiole as long as or exceeding leaflets.	Petioles shorter than leaflets.
4.	Leaflets faintly inciso-dentate.	Leaflets minutely dentate in the terminal portion.
5.	Calyx teeth shorter than the tube.	Calyx teeth longer than the tube.
6.	Wings shorter than the keel.	Wings and keel equal in size.

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A NEW SPECIES OF *AMMANNIA* L. (LYTHRACEAE) FROM INDIA

Ammannia nagpurensis T. Mathew *et* Nayar, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1).

Affinis *A. multiflorae* Roxb. sed caulibus parce ramosis, pedunculis longioribus (ad 15 mm longis), calicis lobis subrotundatis, apicem mucronatis, floribus fructibusque laxibus, antheris plano insertionis petalorum aequis differt.

Typus : India, Maharashtra, Nagpur Dt., Jalankeri farm, 283 m, 20.11.1957, *Subramanyam* 4717 (Holo : CAL; Iso : MH).

Annual, glabrous herbs. *Stems* up to 30 cm long, erect, sparsely branched, usually with one or two basal branches, four-winged. *Leaves* simple, opposite decussate, 3-15 × 0.5-3.0 mm, linear-oblong with auriculate-cordate base, acute at apex, entire, glabrous, membranous, semi-amplexicaulous. *Flowers* in axillary simple or compound pedunculate cymes; peduncles filiform; primary peduncles 8-15 mm long; secondary peduncles up to 7 mm long; (1-)3-7(-15) flowers per cyme; pedicel 1.5-2 mm long; bracteoles 2, at the base of pedicel. *Calyx tube* campanulate, *ca* 1 mm long, lobes 4, subrotundate, mucronate. *Petals* 4, 0.5-1 mm long, obovate, inserted at the rim of calyx tube, pink, caducous. *Stamens* 4, inserted on the middle of calyx tube, filaments 0.5-0.6 mm long, anthers borne level with the base of petals. *Ovary* 0.75-1 mm long, globose, wall membranous, 2-loculed, many ovules in each locule; style distinct, 0.75-1 mm long, persistent in fruits; stigma capitate. *Capsules* up to 2 mm across, globose, exserted, opening irregularly. *Seeds* many, minute, 0.35 × 0.25 mm, ovoid, brown.

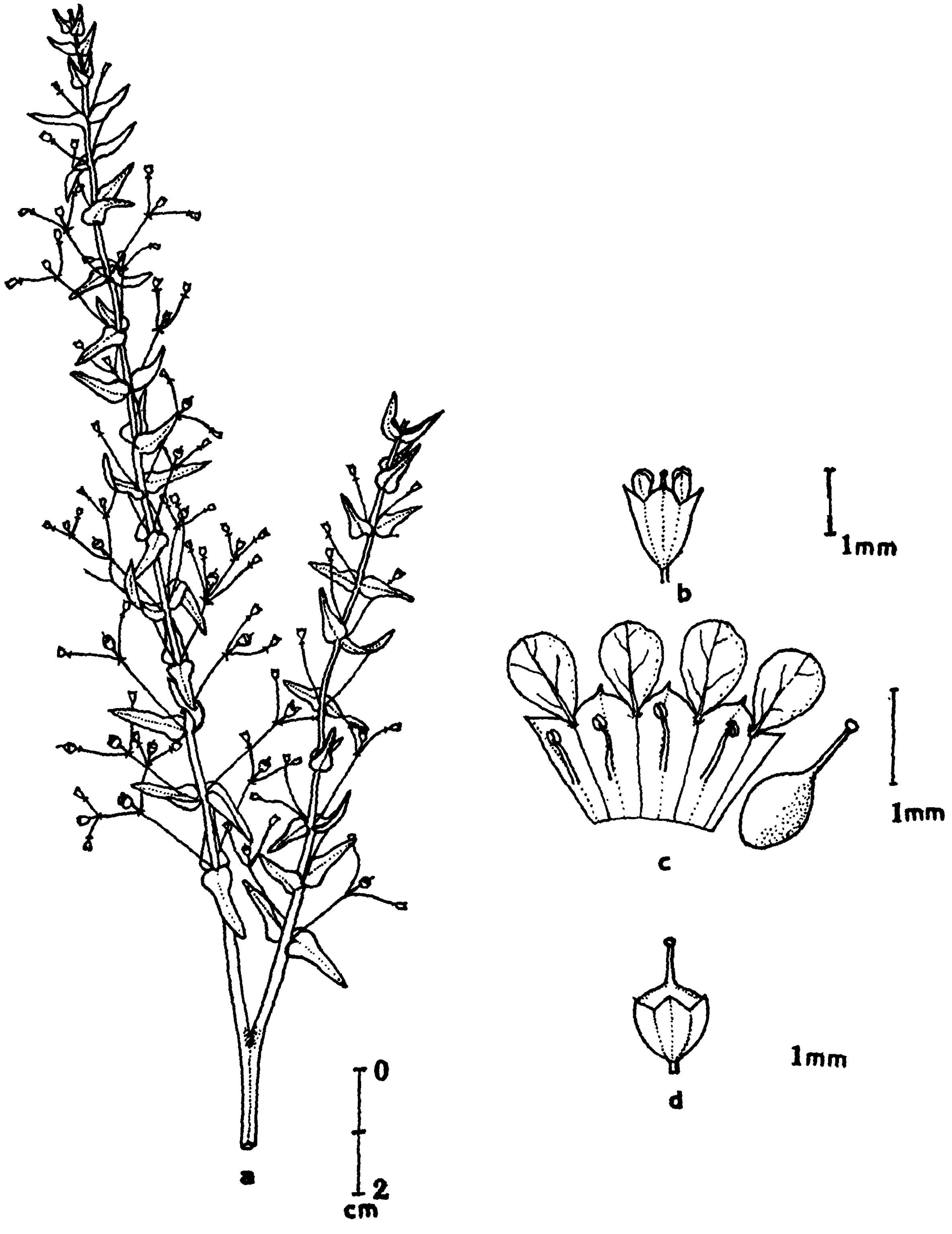


Fig. 1 : *Ammannia nagpurensis* T. Mathew *et* Nayar
a. Habit. b. Flower. c. Flower split opened. d. Capsule.

Seed morphology (SEM Studies) :

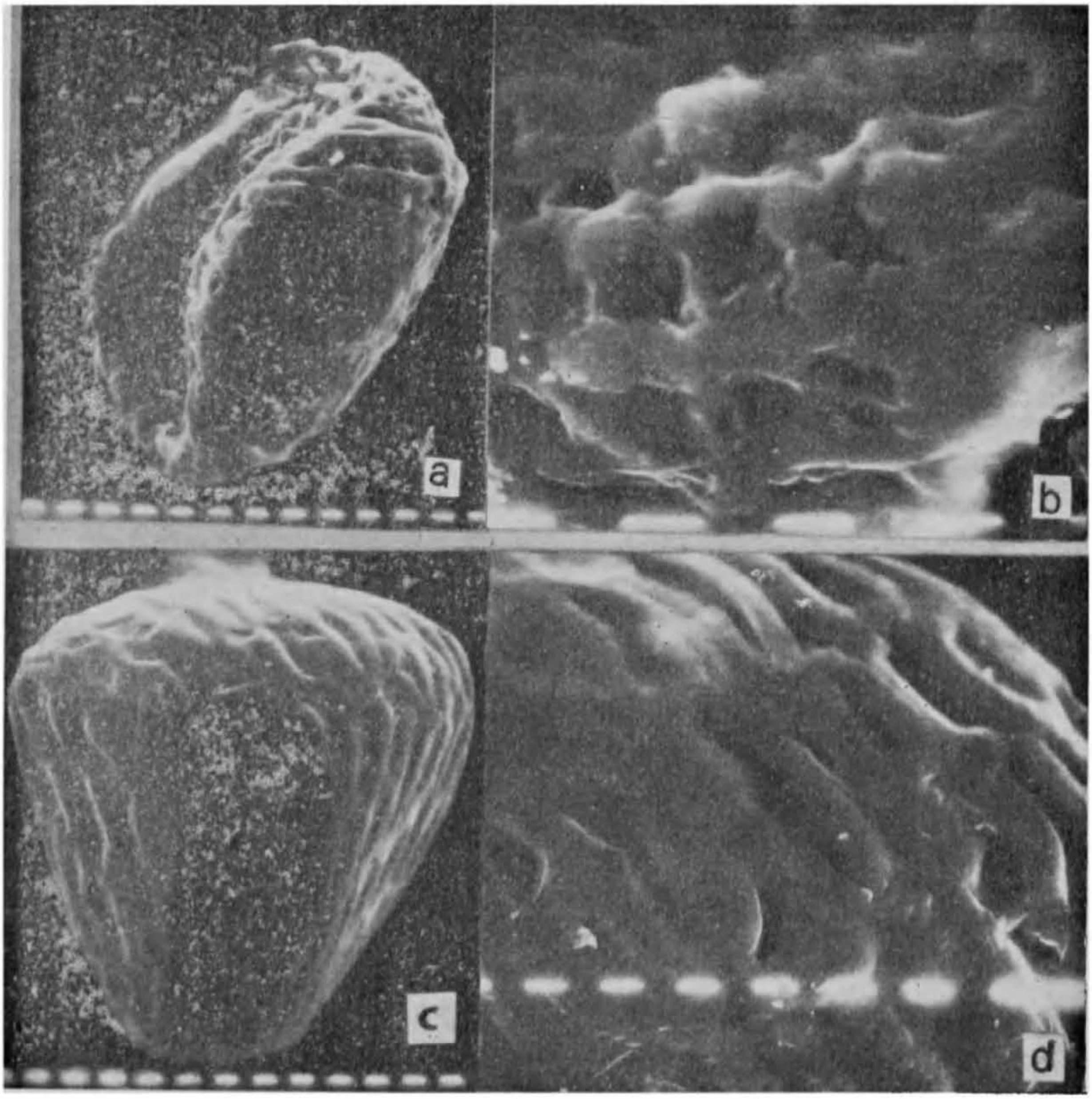
Ammannia nagpurensis **(Plate 1a & b)**	***A. multiflora*** **(Plate 1c &d)**
1. Size : 0.35×0.25 mm.	0.45×0.3 mm.
2. Shape : Ovoid.	Triangular-ovoid.
3. Surface : Spermoderm cells quadrangular. Boundary walls of spermoderm cells unevenly thickened and without any pores.	Spermoderm cells rectangular. Boundary walls of spermoderm cells uniformly thickened with scattered pores throughout.

Fls. & Frts. : October-November.

Distrib. : INDIA : Maharashtra, Gujarat.

Ecology : Growing in paddy-fields, river-banks and other moist places.

Specimens examined : INDIA : Maharashtra, Nagpur Dt., Starky point, 7.11.1946,



Scanning electron micrographs of seed coat.

Plate 1 : Figs. a-d. a—b. *A nagpurensis* (Subramanyam 4717) : **a.** Dry seed showing *dorso-ventral* **surfaces × 320. b. Part of dorsal surface showing quadrangular** spermoderm cells × 1250. c—d. ***A. multiflora*** **(Thomson s.n.): c. Dry seed showing dorsal surface × 320. d. Part of dorsal surface showing rectangular spermoderm cells × 640.**

Mirashi 252 (BLAT). GUJARAT : Dangs, Unai, Westward along Rly. line, 3.11.1953, *Santapau* 17268 (BLAT) ; Saurashtra, Sasangir to Junvania, 5.10.1953, *Santapau* 16359 (BLAT).

Notes : *A. nagpurensis* T. Mathew et Nayar is closely allied to *A. multiflora* Roxb. but can easily be distinguished from it by having : sparsely branched stem, very long peduncles (up to 15 mm), subrotund calyx lobes with mucronate tip, stamens as long as or shorter than the calyx tube and flowers and fruits lax, whereas in the latter species stem densely branched, peduncles shorter (up to 5 mm), calyx lobes triangular with acute or acuminate apex, stamens longer than the calyx tube and flowers and fruits crowded. Spermoderm of both the species have been studied under the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and observed that the shape, orientation as well as thickenings of the cells are different from each other.

This species is named after its type locality.

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The authors are grateful to the Scientist-in-Charge, RSIC, Bose Institute, Calcutta, for having given us facilities to carry out SEM studies.

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A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *ROTALA RITCHIEI* (CLARKE) KOEHNE

In course of the revisionary studies of Lythraceae, the authors came across an interesting herbarium specimen, which on critical examination turned out to be *Rotala ritchiei* (Clarke) Koehne, a very rare plant that was hitherto known to be strictly endemic to the northern W. Ghats as it was known only from two isolated collections from Belgaum and Pune. This particular specimen (*Fischer* 1419, CAL), collected from Devarakerai at *ca* 1575 m altitude in the Coimbatore hills of Tamil Nadu State, was earlier misidentified as *Ammannia pentandra* Roxb. The correct identification of this specimen thus extends the distribution of *R. ritchiei* to the southern W. Ghats as well. Apparently at one time the species had a much wider range in the W. Ghats. The species, *R. ritchiei,* is based on Ritchie's collection from the "rice fields ...... amongst floating weeds" in Belgaum and was originally described as *Ammannia ritchiei* Clarke.

After a lapse of nearly a hundred years since the type collection, it was recollected in the year 1966 (Janardhanan, 1979). The locality from which it was then collected is now completely disturbed owing to urbanisation and no populations of *R. ritchiei* could be located there later on. This threatened species is already listed in the Indian Plant Red Data Book (1987).

The plant is an annual, half-submerged, aquatic herb with a very short life span. It appears soon after monsoon in the submergible areas at the shallow fringes of ponds and starts flowering from August onwards. The specialised habitat of the plant is obviously the reason why it escapes notice and, as such, has such a poor representation in herbaria. An intensive survey of the Devarakerai and similar habitats in the adjoining areas is warranted to see if any surviving populations of this very interesting plant can be found. Since the species is at present feared to be vulnerable, every attempt should be made to locate this species in its